

Agricultural Miscellany

Every spring furnishes renewed evidence of the advantage of underdraining, and also, on many soils, of fall plowing. On our own farm we were able to sow oats and peas April 21st on sod plowed this spring. Barley we sowed April 25th. This is late sowing, but it is the best we could do, and if the land had not been

decreased it could not have been planned for more than ten days later. They would make the difference between a poor crop. We have had an unusually cold and backward spring. Winter wheat crops injured by freezing weather and cold winds in March and April. On wet land the corn is not up to the normal height. In the drier, spring-killed. On many farms in the western vicinity not a farrow was plowed until the first of May. Farmers who can raise good crops this year will probably have no reason to regret the time and money they have spent in getting the land in better shape for the future. In knowing their stock. We hope to be able to see that we shall see no more 25-cent corn for some years. We shall hear little about "overproduction." The railroad managers will learn that farmers will not long continue to be so poor. They will learn that it is better to sell their hay and grain in the form of beef, pork, mutton

water, batter and wool than to transport it through distances to anchor in the raw state. The roots are more numerous, and more of stock, and more liberal feeding are the fundamental principles in our platform. Here we have the most abundant supply of food.

We wish every farmer in the United States to join our party—*American Agriculturist*.

The Perforating Power of Roots.

It is indeed wonderful how easily the roots of plants and trees bore through lead, impalpable matter in search of nourishment. They use for this purpose a sort ofawl, of immense power, which they call the root-hair. Each hair consists with the aid of the other root machinery, of extruding aside heavy weights and getting rid of them by means of the root hairs. These consist only of a mass of microscopic absorbent cells formed by protoplasm or vegetable mucus—the fluid in which vital action is first manifested. This fluid is called the root sap. It will bore through the hardest soil of walls or curbstones, enter drains, trine about water pipes and even penetrate brick structures. The roots of some plants have been known to pass through eighteen inches of solid brick-work and make their appearance at the top of the wall. They can overcome vast power in overcoming obstacles, when searching for food. They are like a hungry man who would rather starve than go without his food lay beyond. The movements of roots in soil proceed on certain principles of utility in nature. They do not grow haphazardly. They need much more moisture than others, and the roots will give ground through rocks to obtain it. There must needs nutritious food, and will penetrate through the hardest substances to reach the richest ground. The urgency with which nature drives plants and animals in pursuit of food is almost irresistible.—*Journal of Chemistry*

Water in the House.

A prominent writer says: "Let nobody be deterred from bringing water in the house by any fears of failure and perplexity. You might as well be deterred from planting a tree because the seedling may be subject to blight. The body because it is subject to derangement, or to refuse the circulation of water in the house because it is liable to a pipe being broken. If trees are ruined, the seedling is lost; if workmen will prevent any such accident, but if they cannot give up your fresco: do not give up your canal. The water in the house is the life of the kitchen, whose only source of supply is the well in the yard, or the highgate at the back door, how little would be lengthened and how much be shortened by the introduction of water-bringing could be supplied. I wonder that we do not manage to introduce it somehow. When I see the water brought to the house of a rich man, I wonder that a diminished demand for divorce; what a strengthening an upbuilding of the family bond, if a girl should be able to bring water to her father's house. A supply of water, as least in the kitchen, is a house without water ought to be considered as incomplete as a house without doors and as incomplete in the country as in the city."

Weeks.

"A stern chase is a long chase," and the farmer who is badly beaten with his work this season of the year, it is apt to be a hard one to get out of. The farmer has to fight the farmer's greatest enemy, and June is the time to fight them. If we allow them to get on a

ing the busy season of haying and harvesting which is now but little distance ahead. Let weeds start and then kill them. Pursue the practice thoroughly for a few years, allowing none, in the meantime, to arrive at maturity and the ground can be rendered entirely free from this pest. The weeds on some farms the ground has become so thoroughly filled with weed seeds that it is impossible to keep them from destroying a growing crop. Heavy clay land that has unfortunately got into this condition may with profit be summer fallowed for a year or two, and then the ground can be made possible and then kill them by repeatedly plowing and harrowing the ground.—*Ohio Farmer*.

to be planned, for it is going on all the time, and it is not confined to the more northern localities. But propagating plants by layers is very much like a motion picture. It is a series of pictures in a certain order," although with some kinds of layer plants spring is the best time. A branch of shrub, vine or tree, bent down and a portion of it covered with soil, will grow and be ready to produce roots about that part which is buried by next autumn, if not before. With some kinds of plants, such as the grape, it is better to have the wood at the points where it is desired to have new roots produced; and it is well to turn this up now, as it hastens their growth even though it is necessary to their production.—*Rail New Yorker.*

worked, trade in all departments will revive steadily, and the country will be able to leave the trace of the panic of 1918 unremembered ago."—*Mass. Ploughman*.

A WARE BRAN-MAN is a good thing to have a horse when he is brought home hot and exhausted from a long journey. Blanket his neck at once, and rub his ears and legs, and then, if the horse is very hot, rub the sides of the body as can be got at without wholly removing the blanket. If your man thinks this too much trouble, and will not do the work, tell him to rub his horse's flanks with bran till he can't stand the good horse.

SPARE THE CULTIVATOR at the moment you can see the roots of corn, or potatoes or mangels. The outside tooth of the cultivator should be bright, and the teeth should be kept close together with the necessary strapping, and they should be set so as to throw the earth toward the center of the row. With a good cultivator the corn will be kept free from weeds, the plants will leave little holes for hand hoeing.

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